

TABLES

Premier League Division 1

1st Grade									
Team	P	W	D	N	L	F	A	Pts	
Belconnen United	3	3	0	0	0	14	3	9	
Weston Creek	3	3	0	0	0	9	2	9	
Monaro	3	2	1	0	0	15	3	8	
Capital City Suns	3	1	1	0	1	4	4	5	
Canberra Olympic	3	1	0	1	1	3	3	4	
Uni of Canberra	3	1	0	0	2	8	8	3	
Canberra Deakin	3	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	
Burns Club	3	1	0	0	2	4	10	3	
Juventus	3	0	1	0	2	4	8	2	
Queanbeyan City	3	0	0	0	3	2	21	0	

Under 23s									
Team	P	W	D	N	L	F	A	Pts	
Belconnen United	3	3	0	0	0	34	7	9	
Monaro	3	3	0	0	0	23	1	9	
Canberra Olympic	3	2	1	0	0	4	2	8	
Weston Creek	3	2	0	0	1	7	3	6	
Uni of Canberra	3	2	0	0	1	7	4	6	
Capital City Suns	3	1	0	0	2	14	13	3	
Juventus	3	1	0	0	2	8	12	3	
Burns Club	3	0	1	0	2	1	3	2	
Canberra Deakin	3	0	0	0	3	4	10	0	
Queanbeyan City	3	0	0	0	3	1	49	0	

Under 19s									
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Belconnen United	3	3	0	0	14	3	9		
Uni of Canberra	3	3	0	0	7	1	9		
Weston Creek	3	2	0	1	13	6	6		
Juventus	3	2	0	1	10	4	6		
Monaro	3	2	0	1	10	9	6		
Canberra Deakin	3	2	0	1	7	8	6		
Burns Club	3	1	0	2	5	7	3		
Queanbeyan City	3	0	0	2	4	11	0		
Canberra Olympic	3	0	0	3	2	10	0		
Capital City Suns	3	0	0	3	2	15	0		

TABLES

Premier League Division 2

1st Grade									
Team	P	W	D	N	L	F	A	Pts	
O'Connor Knights	3	3	0	0	0	9	1	9	
Tuggeranong Utd	3	3	0	0	0	11	7	9	
Cooma	3	2	0	0	1	6	5	6	
ANU	3	1	1	0	1	10	7	5	
Belwest Foxes	3	1	1	0	1	8	9	5	
White Eagles	3	1	0	0	2	4	5	3	
ADFA	3	0	0	0	3	3	10	0	
Sabres FC	3	0	0	0	3	0	10	0	

Reserve Grade									
Team	P	W	D	N	L	F	A	Pts	
O'Connor Knights	3	3	0	0	0	5	0	9	
ANU	3	2	0	0	1	9	6	6	
Belwest Foxes	3	2	0	0	1	8	5	6	
Tuggeranong Utd	3	2	0	0	1	10	8	6	
ADFA	3	1	0	0	2	9	8	3	
Sabres FC	3	1	0	0	2	6	7	3	
White Eagles	3	1	0	0	2	3	5	3	
Cooma	3	0	0	0	3	2	13	0	

State League Youth Grade									
Team	P	W	D	N	L	F	A	Pts	
Tuggeranong Utd	2	2	0	0	0	7	2	6	
Belwest Foxes	2	1	0	0	1	10	6	3	
Belconnen Utd	2	1	0	0	1	6	6	3	
Radford	2	1	0	0	1	3	3	3	
Belsouth	2	1	0	0	1	3	6	3	
Southern Spirit	2	0	0	0	2	2	10	0	

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CANBERRA SOCCER NEWS

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EDITORIAL

There are two disturbing items to discuss this week. Both will affect the league and it is for you people out there to help.

At the Queanbeyan City Lions problems exist. The club did enough to promise Soccer Canberra that they should stay in Division 1.

They may have fulfilled some of the requirements, but on the field the results are very disheartening. The worst of these coming in the Under 23s where the team has conceded one less than 50 goals in three matches.

Worse is the problem of the discipline, with a number of players being sent off each week. Can this club turn around?

I have been informed that there are sponsors and people behind the club. They just need the players. So, if you know of anyone who wants to play and is good enough then there is a spot at Queanbeyan City.

Problem two is that of referees. If you have been to all three matches at your field this weekend, you will notice that most likely the same three officials will be doing all three games.

Why? Because there are a lack of referees in Canberra owing to retirements and other responsibilities. Soccer in Canberra needs more referees, desperately.

Remember, you actually get paid for working as a referee and you get that fresh air as well. Interested? Contact Soccer Canberra on 62604000. They'll welcome you with open arms.

DEAKIN HOLD ON FOR DRAW
by Greg Welsh

Canberra Deakin and Canberra Olympic battled out a grim 0-0 draw in the ACT Premier League match of the day at Bruce Stadium on Saturday.

Played as a curtain-raiser to the NSL match between the Canberra Cosmos and the Gippsland Falcons, the game was an important one for both sides after mixed results in the first two rounds.

However the game turned out a scrappy affair with neither team able to keep possession for extended periods.

Deakin midfielder Gaby Exposito found himself unexpectedly in space in the 26th minute and unleashed a long-range effort which bounced awkwardly in front of Olympic's goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou. The 'keeper did well to deflect the ball past his right post and maintain the deadlock.

Four minutes later, Olympic's fullback Takis Arvanitis swung a left-footed cross onto the head of striker Elia Salloum. His neat flick found Arsenje Popovich who was brought down in front of goal.

The referee pointed to the spot and Njegosh Popovich stepped forward to take the penalty kick. However, Deakin 'keeper Pedro Pavez guessed correctly and managed to block the ball away with his right hand.

The teams traded half-chances until the 70th minute when the sending off of Deakin striker Zoran Talevski for a second bookable offense swung the game in Olympic's favour.

Olympic nearly found the winner nine minutes later when Njegosh Popovich latched onto a Con Kobas cross, only to have the ball rebound off the left-hand upright.

Olympic dominated the match thereafter, with Pino Seminara again coming close to snatching the win a few minutes from fulltime. Seminara took off on a jinking run into the Deakin penalty area and struck a sweetly-timed shot that shaved the outside of the left post.

The 0-0 result seemed adequate reward for a disappointing performance from both sides, who will each need to lift their intensity if they are to challenge for the title this season.

FIRST HALF ENOUGH FOR MONARO

Monaro overan Burns Club in the first half of last Sunday's game and then cruised to a 7-2 win. In a period of one-way traffic, Monaro piled on 6 goals and should have had at least another 10.

Within the first three minutes, they could have been 2 up first with Danny Macor heading over and then Matt Cachia heading against the woodwork.

It took nine minutes for the first. A long ball found Macor on the right and after beating his man, sent in a low cross for attacking partner Lazar Simeonov to head in.

A few minutes later Macor wandered through some flimsy defence after Joe Campagna set him up, but his shot found the side-netting.

A quarter of an hour gone and a Valerio Galeotti throw found Macor free. His cross was met sweetly by Cachia at the back post to make it 2-0.

2 Another four minutes where a corner from John Rakic was met by Jim Baxter at the near post. His looping header went over the keeper and into the far side of the net.

Macor and Simeonov worked well to set up the former, but again he found the wrong side of the net. Matt Cachia also had another chance with his head, but that too went wide.

Ten minutes before the break Lazar Simeonov set up Rakic on the edge of the penalty area. His solid strike gave poor Shane Read in goals no chance.

Two more minutes for number five. Valerio received the ball near the half-way line on the right. He beat his opponent, raced into the penalty area and shot true.

Finally, on the stroke of half-time, Greg Lemin took out Cachia in the box. Danny Macor took the penalty shot and rifled it past Read.

Six nil at the break and obviously Burns coach Steve Bryant had a few words to say. His team showed somewhat a bit more spirit and came back into the game.

A free kick on the right was taken by Gardiner Murray ten minutes in. In a crowded box, Josh Turco made contact and gave the Burns supporters something to cheer about.

Both teams then settled down to play some football, although the result was already in the bag. Burns were now more competitive, especially in midfield, while Monaro had taken the foot off the pedal.

At the half-hour mark of the second period substitute Littlewood of Burns tripped Lazar Simeonov in the box and Macor stepped up to make it a double from the penalty spot.

With five minutes to go Valerio Galeotti sent a through ball to Simeonov. He rounded Read and shot towards goal, but Varley for Burns was able to get back in time to clear off the line.

Then in the dying minutes of the game, Mark Collett picked up the ball in midfield and from 25m out sent a shot into the top left corner to give Burns their second goal of the day.

Monaro coach Ian Heywood said that the first half was "some of the best football played by Monaro in years."

"I was very happy with the performance" he said. "The damage was done in the first 15 minutes, and it is hard to keep motivated for 90 minutes when you are up 6-0 by half-time."

On the other side Steve Bryant was disappointed saying "the boys need to learn quicker or this will happen more often. There was not enough passion out there."

SUNS TOO HOT FOR JUVENTUS

by Greg Welsh

Second-half goals to Capital City Suns strikers Gus Cerro and Tony Lemezina handed Gunghalin Juventus a 2-1 lesson in clinical finishing during their ACT Premier League meeting at Jamison Oval on Sunday.

Possession was evenly shared throughout a first half full of attacking endeavour but lacking in final-pass precision.

Juventus spurned excellent opportunities in the 20th and 32nd minutes, and but for a lack of composure in front of goal could have taken a 2-0 lead into the half-time break.

3 In the first instance, Juventus' goalkeeper Dennis Langone's long punt bounced over the heads of the Suns defense and was brought down neatly by striker George Cattanach. He turned and struck a first-time shot which seemed goal-bound until a diving Tony Giannasca managed to palm the ball wide.

A free-kick on the corner edge of the penalty area twelve minutes later provided Juventus with their second opportunity. Cattanach rolled the ball to Louie Gaspari, whose powerful left-foot drive cleared the crossbar by only inches.

But it was the Suns' Cerro who turned the game on its head two minutes into the second half, when he expertly brought down a lofted through-ball with his right foot before cracking a left-foot shot into the back of the net.

To their credit, Juventus responded by pushing more players forward in search of an equaliser, but paid the price 18 minutes later when the Suns brought up their second goal.

This time it was Pat Phommaseisy and substitute Yuki Ondo combining well down the left before supplying Lemezina with the ball in front of goal. Lemezina turned his marker delightfully before placing the ball into the corner of the net from close range.

Juventus played their last trump card when they pushed playmaker Oscar Zamora forward from sweeper to midfield. The move nearly paid off minutes later when Zamora's curling cross found Cattanach unmarked in front of goal, however the striker could get no more than a glancing header onto the ball.

Another Zamora cross two minutes later was deftly backheeled by Cattanaach into the path of Josh Quarmby whose sprayed shot left him holding his head in frustration.

A Niall Stoddart goal deep into stoppage time proved too little too late for Juventus, and served only to slightly disappoint Suns' coach Bill Dojcinowski. "2-0 I would have been happier. 2-1 I'm still happy," Dojcinowski said.

The coach was pleased his players responded to his half-time plea to give one hundred per cent in the second period, and particularly praised the attacking efforts of Cerro and the pacy Ondo.

"I think we will improve," Dojcinowski said. "Hopefully if the registration goes through by next week, Ilija Prenzoski from the Cosmos is going to be on the side. That will give us a lot more speed in the midfield and pushing forward."

WESTON TAME SPIRITED STUDENTS

At Woden Park Weston Creek Royals continued their run of victories with a solid 5-2 defeat over the University of Canberra.

Weston had most of the play for the first 30 minutes, but dropped off for the remainder of the half to allow the students back into the game.

The Creek scored first through Peter Hader after a Hami Adhami cross in the fourth minute.

Half-way through the period a Steve Lazzari shot came back off the woodwork. His brother Martin was following up and his header gave Chris Freeman, Uni's 'keeper, no chance.

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Simon Foxhill for the students started to stamp himself on the game after the half hour mark setting up at least three chances.

One of these was converted when Foxhill's shot came back off the post and Dominic Bartone put away the rebound.

Two-one at the break and University were looking the better, but with just one minute into the second period, Steve Lazzari whilst on the ground managed to scramble the ball into the goal.

The game remained stalemated for most of the second half until a flourish of goals in the last ten minutes.

A Martin Lazzari free kick took a deflection off a defender and beat the 'keeper. Then with just over five minutes left, Matt Stocks set up Steve Lazzari for an easy tap-in. Finally in extra-time, Weston gave away an own goal with Adrian Parragali heading into his own net whilst under pressure.

Weston coach Jimmy Bland said the result flattered his team. "They showed a fair bit of character in the second half, but the first was disappointing."

For Uni, Rod Lynes was pleased with his side's performance in the first half, stating "it was the best so far this year and shows promising signs for the future."

BELCONNEN RACK UP SCORELINE AT QUEANBEYAN

At Riverside Oval there was another rout of lowly Queanbeyan City Lions, this time by Belconnen United and by a scoreline of 8-1.

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Scorers for Belconnen were Adrian Dowling 2, Jason Dunn, Scott Manson, Luke Larfield, Obe Shadmann, Damian Tunney and Matt Whyte whilst Steve Roberts picked up the sole score for Queanbeyan.

Roberts may have even broken a Canberra record when he, having played in the Under 23's as well, kicked off 34 times. The other scoreline was 24-0 to Belconnen.

Belconnen also brought on a substitute at half-time who will become a major player in the team's move for the premiership this season. Marko Perinovic, having played the night before for Gippsland Falcons, made his debut for the season having his clearance come through in time.

BELCONNEN KNOCKED OUT OF FEDERATION CUP by Greg Welsh

Canberra Olympic produced their best performance of the season to upset Belconnen United 4-1 in the first semi-final of the Federation Cup at Greenway Oval on Wednesday night.

Belconnen, boasting the likes of Jason Dunn and Marko Perinovic, won both the Federation Cup and ACT Premier League last year, and prior to this game were undefeated in 1999.

But Olympic tore up the form book by surging to a 2-0 half-time lead, from which Belconnen were always going to find it difficult to recover.

The game was only six minutes old when Takis Arvinitis' long ball found Njegosh Popovich inside the penalty area. Popovich was sandwiched by two Belconnen defenders, and referee Ben Williams pointed immediately to the penalty spot.

Belconnen 'keeper Rade Kuzmanovic dived to his right and managed to get both hands on the ball, but the force of Arvinitis' left-foot kick proved enough to bring up an early 1-0 lead.

Just over half-an-hour later, an Olympic free-kick just outside the penalty area sent Belconnen further behind. Elliott Zwangobani laid off the ball to Geoff Howarth, whose powerful shot cannoned off the Belconnen wall and past a despairing Kuzmanovic.

Belconnen pulled back a goal eight minutes after half-time. Olympic' keeper Angelo Konstantinou dived to block Matt Whyte's shot, but the ball ricocheted into one of his own defenders before trickling to Perinovic who accepted the gift gratefully.

Olympic struck back ten minutes later with two goals inside 90 seconds. The first came from a Howarth in-swinging corner, which Njegosh Popovich headed home powerfully from close range.

The goal of the game came directly after. Robert Grande's delightful through ball to the pacy Elia Salloum neatly bisected the Belconnen defence, and Salloum slotted the ball past an advancing Kuzmanovic to seemingly put the game beyond doubt.

However, Belconnen's reputation is not for nothing, and in the last 30 minutes they created enough goal-scoring opportunities to win four games of football. But it seemed that luck and composure had deserted them on this evening.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo later praised an all-around good effort from his team. "Robert Grande got through a mountain of work. Elia [Salloum] and Geoff [Howarth] give us quite a bit of pace on the flanks, especially as the game wears on ...[but] the main aspect tonight was to eliminate the errors at the back."

"This has probably been one of the biggest changes formation-wise and player-wise ...since the season started, and hopefully this will give us the basis of a fairly reasonable team," Giampaolo said. Olympic will face the winner of next week's Monaro-Deakin clash in the final.

ACT WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION CUP FINAL By Anya Whitelaw

Belconnen United have defeated Canberra City 3-2 in the ACT Women's Soccer Association Cup final after the game went to extra time.

The first half saw no real chances for either team, most shots on goal coming from outside the box.

The best opportunity of the half went to Belconnen's Clorinda Ianucci, beating City goalkeeper Michelle Tifan only to have her shot go wide.

Both teams lifted in intensity for the second half. Belconnen's Dior Foxhill converted a penalty shot in the eighth minute, only to see Nancy Foot hit back straight after this from a penalty kick for City.

At the end of normal play the scores were locked at 1-1, sending the game into extra time. Cindy Doyle put Belconnen back in front, but Foot again levelled the scores for City from another penalty shot.

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The second period of extra time saw some aggression amongst players and Belconnen's Daniel Hepperlin sent-off for a foul tackle.

Despite being a player short, Doyle scored the final goal to see Belconnen win the Association Cup three goals to two from City.

Belconnen coach Bridget Starr said it was a "well deserved victory" for her players considering the obstacles her side had faced.

Coach of City, Chris Florentine said: "It was a very tough and aggressive match with both teams playing well.

"I am very proud of my side, but congratulations to Belconnen", Chris said.

In other matches:

Belconnen were 4-0 winners over City in the Watson Cup

Queenbeyan Cobras defeated Cooma 3-2 in a penalty shoot out to take the Heather Reid Trophy

ANU downed Weston Creek 2-0 to win the Briggs Shield.

OTHER NOTES

We invite you the public to submit articles and even letters to the Editor, which with space available, will be published.

The date for the second semi-final of the Federation Cup, between Canberra Deakin and Monaro had not been set at the time of publication.

CANBERRA SOCCER NEWS PREDICTIONS FOR ROUND 4

Match of the Round

Monaro v Weston Creek Royals
Sun May 2 - Riverside Stadium
What a great game this early in the season. My belief is that the Creek Express will have to make a stop in Queanbeyan.

PICK: MONARO

Belconnen United v Burns Club
Sun May 2 - Hawker Oval
Burns have lost a little momentum, and here's hoping that Steve Bryant can get them motivated. Bels on the other hand have now moved to the top of the table in all three grades. They will be unstoppable.

PICK: BELCONNEN UNITED

Capital City Suns v Queanbeyan City
Sun May 2 - O'Connor Oval
Until Queanbeyan can get some players, they will be easy beats. Here's hoping the scoreline is kept down.

PICK: CAPITAL CITY SUNS

Uni of Canberra v Canberra Olympic
Sun May 2 - Uni of Canberra
Olympic have been out of sorts lately and the draw last weekend may have been what was needed to get them back in the hunt. The students are just waking up and will threaten.

PICK: CANBERRA OLYMPIC

Canberra Deakin v Gungahlin Juventus
Sun May 2 - Deakin Oval
Deakin are now getting better. They fought hard with ten men against Olympic last Saturday. Juventus are still trying to get on their feet.

PICK: CANBERRA DEAKIN

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Results from April 24-26

Premier League Division 1:

1st U23 U19
Gungahlin Juventus v Capital City Suns
1-2 5-4 5-0
Weston Creek Royals v Uni of Canberra
5-2 3-0 1-2
Queanbeyan City Lions v Belconnen United
1-8 0-24 1-5
Burns Club v Monaro
2-7 0-1 2-4
Canberra Olympic v Canberra Deakin
0-0 1-0 0-2

Premier League Division 2:

1st Grade: Belwest Foxes 4 ANU 4,
Cooma 2 Sabres FC 0, Tuggeranong 4
ADFA 1, White Eagles 1 O'Connor
Knights 3
Res Grade: Belwest Foxes 1 ANU 3,
Cooma 1 Sabres FC 5, Tuggeranong 5
ADFA 3, White Eagles 0 O'Connor
Knights 1

State League:

Division 1: Belconnen United 3 ANU 1,
Un of Canberra 1 Canberra City 1,
Southern Spirit 2 Burns 5, Ginninderra
3 Monaro 3
Division 2: Belconnen United 1 ANU 1,
Uni of Canberra 4 Canberra City 1,
Tuggeranong United 0 Burns 1, Valley
Blues 2 Belwest 3, Ginninderra 2
Gungahlin Juventus 4
Division 3: ADFA-2 5 Tuggeranong
United 0, Canberra City 3 Uni of
Canberra-2 2, Valley Blues 1 Fyshwick
3, ADFA-1 1 Weston Creek 4
Division 4: Canberra City 1 Uni of
Canberra-2 0, Valley Blues 0 Fyshwick
2, ADFA 0 Weston Creek 6